

Amendments to the Specification

Please insert the following paragraph after the description of Figure 2 in the Brief Description of the Drawings section and before the Description of Preferred Embodiments section:

- Figure 3 illustrates the workpiece being welded according to an aspect of the disclosed method.

Please insert the following replacement paragraph for the paragraph at lines 4-8 of page 11:

Alternatively, and as best illustrated by Figure 3, the desired N₂/He mixture may also be obtained by automatic slaving of [[a]] the gas mixer 4 according to the power or power density of the laser 2 used and by using the curve of the figure appended hereto as calibration curve, wherein laser 2 directed a laser beam 3 towards a workpiece to be welded 1.